

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/626,080
Attorney Docket No. Q59998

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Applicants add new claims 10 and 11. Therefore, by this Amendment, claims 1-11 are pending in the application and claims 1-9 have been examined. As set forth in the Office Action, claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by newly applied U.S. Patent No. 6,205,145 to Yamazaki (hereinafter "Yamazaki"). Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yamazaki and newly applied U.S. Patent No. 6,564,266 to Goto et al. (hereinafter "Goto"). Additionally, the Examiner acknowledges that claims 2-7 contain allowable subject matter.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

As noted above, claims 2-7 are not rejected under any art of record. Instead, claims 2-7 are objected to as depending upon a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner acknowledges that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants amend claims 2, 5, 6 and 7/1 (*i.e.*, as new claim 11) to place these claims in independent form. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments to claims 2, 5, 6 and 7/1 place claims 2-7 in condition for immediate allowance.

III. Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1 and 8 stand rejected under § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Yamazaki.

Applicants amend claim 1 to further clarify that "the point-to-point connection is defined by an output plug of the first device, an input plug of the another device and a channel between

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the output plug and the input plug” (*see, e.g.*, Applicants’ specification: page 7, lines 1-18; and Fig. 4). Yamazaki fails to disclose or suggest defining a point-to-point connection by an output plug of the first device, an input plug of another device and a channel between the output plug and the input plug. Thus, claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by Yamazaki. Consequently, claim 8 is not anticipated by Yamazaki at least by virtue of its dependency.

IV. Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 9 stands rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yamazaki in view of Goto.

Goto fails to make up for the deficiencies of Yamazaki set forth above for claim 1. For example, Goto fails to disclose or suggest that “the point-to-point connection is defined by an output plug of the first device, an input plug of the another device and a channel between the output plug and the input plug”, as recited in amended claim 1. Consequently, claim 9 is patentable over the Examiner’s proposed combination of Yamazaki and Goto at least by virtue of its dependency.

V. New Claims 10 and 11

Applicants add new claim 10 to recite the disclosed (*see, e.g.*, Applicants’ specification: page 2, lines 10-19) yet previously unclaimed feature of the output plug and the input plug being defined according to the IEC 61883 standard. It is respectfully submitted that claim 10 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/626,080
Attorney Docket No. Q59998

Applicants add new claim 11, which is original claim 7/1 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner acknowledges that the subject matter of claim 7 is allowable, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 11 is in condition for immediate allowance.

VI. Formal Matter -- Cited References

Applicants acknowledge that the Examiner provides a signed and initialed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08 submitted with Applicants' IDS filed on April 29, 2003, thereby indicating consideration of the references cited therein.

The Examiner, however, has not yet provided a signed and initialed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08 submitted with Applicants' IDS filed on September 23, 2003 or Applicants' IDS filed on May 4, 2004. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to provide a signed and initialed copy of these forms in the next correspondence.

VII. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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